

Testimony

To The Public Health Committee

In support of Bill #6592 – An Act Concerning Certification of Classical Homeopaths

March 20, 2013

Good morning Senator Gerritano, Representative Johnson and distinguished members of the Public Health Committee. My name is Louise Sanchione.

I am a Connecticut native and currently reside in New Haven. I have a degree in naturopathic medicine but I consider myself a Classical Homeopath by profession. I have been studying and practicing homeopathy for over 20 years most recently in Massachusetts for the past 11 because I cannot practice as a professional homeopath in my own State. I expect to earn my Certificate in Classical Homeopathy within the next few weeks.

The purpose of my testimony today is to request your support of HB#6592 – An Act Concerning Certification of Classical Homeopaths.

In support of this request, I would like to make three points.

The first is about the changes I have seen and experienced in the field of homeopathy over the last 20 years specifically in the areas of education and training, certification, science and public awareness.

- In the late 1980s, serious students of homeopathy had very limited access to good homeopathic colleges. Now there are excellent homeopathic colleges throughout the United States, including colleges in neighboring Massachusetts and New York.

- The national Council for Homeopathic Certification did not exist until 1991. Now through their efforts homeopaths have become a recognized profession in the United States and by fulfilling extensive requirements can achieve the status of Certified Classical Homeopath.
- Over 20 years ago scientists were researching but struggling with a modern scientific explanation of the nature of homeopathy to help refute claims that it is just placebo. Currently, nano and material scientists are very close to providing an explanation of the scientific nature of homeopathy.
- And finally, even Doctor Oz, just several weeks ago, devoted an entire show to a comprehensive discussion on the effectiveness of homeopathic medicine.

My second point: My work in Connecticut has been as an educator and after consulting with people from the Department of Social Services, I spoke to social workers and case workers at *Help Me Grow* breakfasts in Hartford, New Haven, Enfield, Bridgeport and Norwich. My emphasis was on how alternative medicine, especially homeopathy can provide parents of children with special needs a safe, effective alternative to prescription medications that can cause very serious side effects. What struck me, at each of these presentations was that at least one person and sometimes up to several had had a positive experience with homeopathy but expressed frustration at their difficulty in finding experienced homeopathic practitioners. Most of the attendees, however, did not know about homeopathy but more importantly wanted to know why this information was not more readily available to the public especially if it can help children with special needs. I had to explain that a law dating back to 1893 prevents professional homeopaths from practicing in Connecticut but are free to practice in all but one other state.

My third point is a personal story. Ironically, my own naturopathic doctor in Connecticut doesn't use homeopathy, so I have to travel a considerable distance to work with an experienced homeopathic practitioner.

In closing, the Connecticut Department of Tourism is marketing our State as - *Connecticutstill revolutionary*. I respectfully submit that allowing the obsolete 1893 legislation to continue to prevent Connecticut citizens from exercising freedom of choice about their health care and highly trained homeopaths from practicing their profession is inconsistent with this slogan. With this in mind, I respectfully request again that you support the passage of HB#6592 and bring our great State into the 21st Century in the area of alternative health care.

I appreciate the opportunity to testify today and thank you and your Legislative Aides for the work you have done thus far. I would be a happy to answer any questions now or in the future.

Respectfully submitted:

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